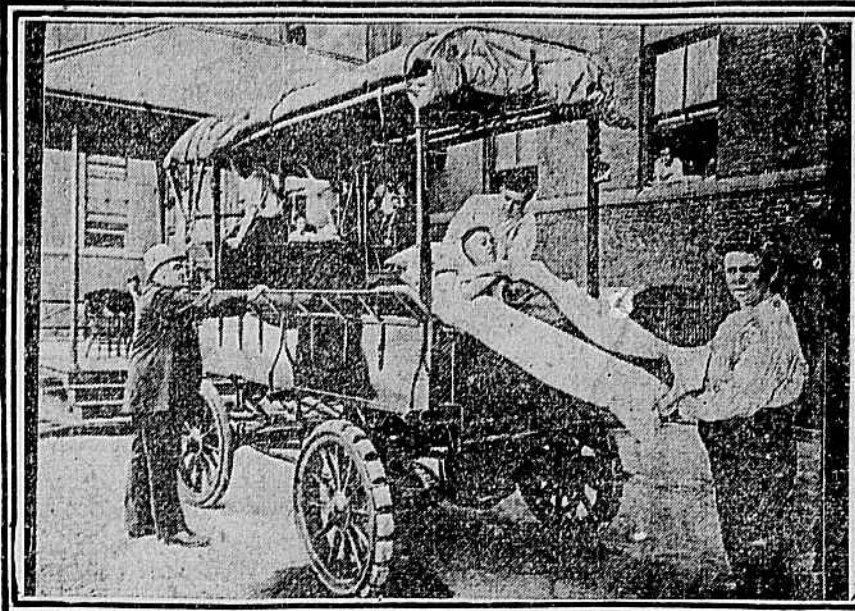
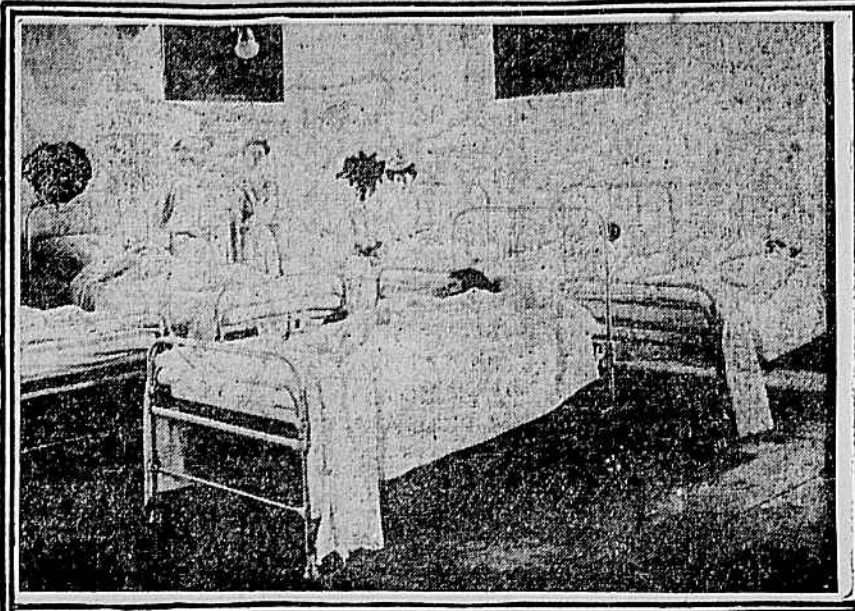


For a Sane Fourth---Whole Nation Aroused---Scores of Cities Enroll Under Banner---Some Ghastly Statistics of Carnage



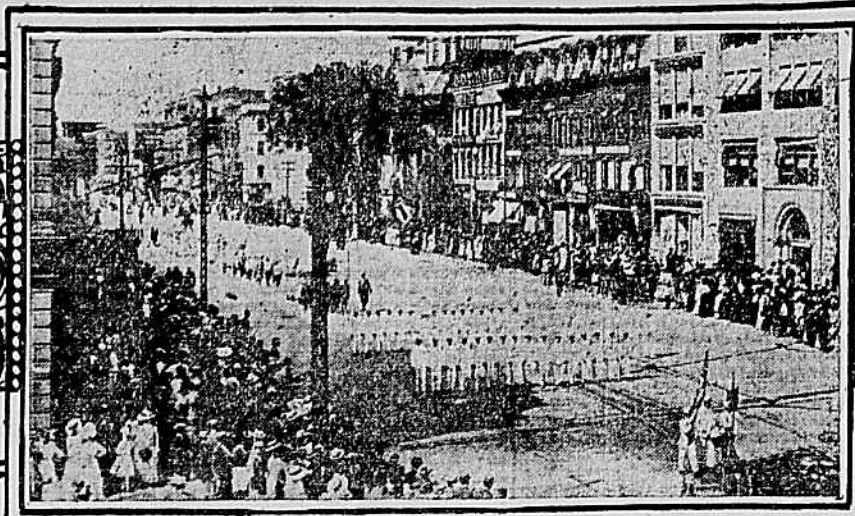
A "Jolly Fourth" Victim Arriving at Hospital.



Morning After the Fourth.



Tableau Costumes, Charlottesville, Va., "Sane Fourth," 1909.



Children's Parade, "Sane Fourth," Pittsfield, Mass., 1909.

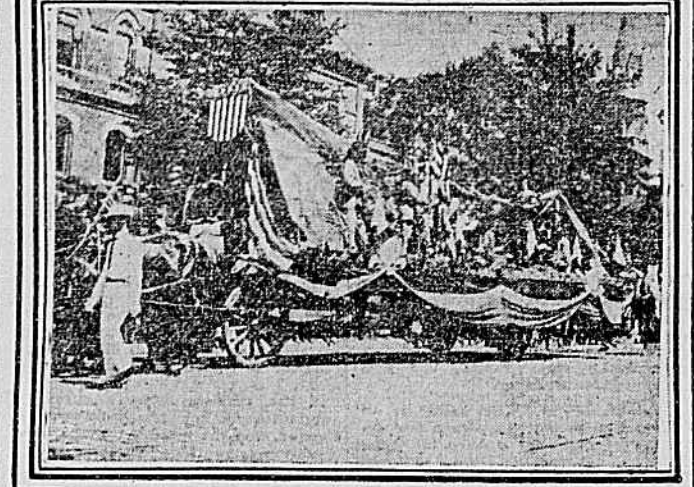
There are going "safe and sane" on this vexed Fourth of July question almost as many communities as have gone dry on the liquor question. A nation-wide propaganda for the reduction of the red casualty roll of Independence Day is on in earnest, and I have just come from the national headquarters here of the American Civic Association, which is using its machinery to awaken the nation to the necessity of preventing such a slaughter of innocents as occurred on Independence Day a year ago.

Last Fourth was bloodier than the previous one, according to the latest compiled statistics of the American Medical Association. There were only a third more deaths and double the number of lockjaw cases due directly to explosions and fire used in celebrating independence. This gory record has spurred to action leaders in the various civic improvement movements. A list of communities that will have "safe and sane" Fourth this year has been furnished to me by Richard B. Watrous, secretary of the American Civic Association.

The dynamite cracker, toy pistol and blank cartridge have been put out of business in the whole State of Massachusetts by a bill lately signed by Governor Draper, and twenty-one other Governors have enlisted under the sane Fourth banner.

Cities Forbidding Fireworks.
The sale and explosion of fireworks of all kinds are forbidden in Washington, Cleveland, Minneapolis, Toledo, Baltimore, Lafayette, Ind., Le Mars, Iowa, and St. Petersburg, Fla. Washington, Cleveland and Baltimore showed the country last year how great cities may hold an unexplosive Fourth, and the capital city as a result reduced its hospital cases of 1909 to none while there were no deaths which could be attributed to the celebration. The children denied the handling of explosives enjoyed, instead, a public display of "daylight fireworks" in the park space in the morning and in the Mall in the afternoon, a gorgeous automobile parade later in the afternoon and elaborate night fireworks on the ellipse behind the White House. Not a cracker was exploded by any individual citizen during the day, and not only were there no "Fourth of July accidents," but fewer arrests than usual. Cleveland on the same day was protected by an ordinance fixing penalties for selling or using fireworks, dynamite, explosives or fire balloons up to one year and thirty days imprisonment in the workhouse. And instead of handling these things themselves, the youngsters witnessed pyrotechnic displays in the public parks under the management of the Board of Public Service. In this manner the death record was reduced from twelve in 1909, to none in 1909. Baltimore's Mayor refused to use the power vested in him to grant permits for the explosion of fireworks, and as a result there was only one death and a marked reduction of fatalities.

Restricted, But Not Prohibited.
One of Boston's city officials announced just before last Independence Day, that he wanted the people to "warm up and let the world know they were alive." Then when the smoke of carnage cleared away five were found dead—two shot down, three giving up their lives as human torches and 167 lay injured, some with eyes blown out and others with hands, fingers and ears torn off. So this year Boston, in addition to receiving the protection of the new State law,



Patriotic Float, Springfield, Mass., "Sane Fourth."

has been preparing for the Fourth by giving a course of lectures in which parents are made acquainted with the risks they allow their children to run in permitting them to purchase crackers and blank cartridges. The Boston Globe at the same time has been holding a letter contest, in which \$150 in prizes has been awarded for plans for a safe observance of the day of days. And a "safe and sane" Fourth committee has sent out circulars to representative organizations suggesting that, in the playgrounds, school yards or other open spaces the children be entertained with moving pictures, stories about historic events, plays, parades and sports. The committee proposes also mammoth bonfires, for which the children may gather inflammable material during the previous days.

A great public pageant of floats depicting historical events related to independence is to pass through the Boston streets the morning of the Fourth, the example for this means of celebrating the holiday having been set two years ago by the Hub's sister city of Springfield. In the Springfield pageant there were not only floats with tableaux depicting the "Signing of the Declaration" and other patriotic events, but representative groups devised by foreign-born elements of the city. This latter feature included Greeks parading in classic robes, Klitted Highlanders blowing bagpipes, Norwegians in a Viking ship, Irish bards, Chinese in a float exhibiting beautiful tapestries, and Englishmen in a tableau representing the Magna Carta. Other features of Springfield's model programs have been band concerts, parades of school children and city officials, athletic contests and aquatic sports on the Connecticut River.

Some Substitute Delights.
A "historical patriotic pageant" has been arranged this year by the Chicago "Sane Fourth Association." United States troops have been ordered to the city, to be led by Major-General F. D. Grant in a grand morning parade, including the National Guard, various race elements in emblematic floats, organizations of foreign-born citizens in national uniforms, reproductions of Washington's state coach

and the liberty bell; a float representing the signing of the Declaration, a detachment of Continentals headed by a stately rider disguised as General Washington, and bodies representing troops in the War of 1812 and Mexican War. In the afternoon and evening there will also be military tournaments by regulars, and at night a public fireworks display will delight the childish heart. Chicago has further provided for a sane Fourth by limiting the size of crackers and strictly forbidding blank cartridges and pistols, the chief causes of independence day lockjaw. These restrictions were also in effect last Fourth, whose death record was thereby cut down to nil as compared with twelve on the previous anniversary.

The pageant scheme for diverting the youthful mind from its huereto dangerous forms of celebration has been adopted also by Pittsburg. The parade has been arranged through popular subscription, and John W. Alexander, the artist, with Percy MacKay, the playwright, has designed the historical features.

Philadelphia, which heretofore has had to distribute Red Cross hospital tents about the city to care for the victims of the glorious Fourth, has been preparing for this year by holding in the public schools courses of lectures warning children of the dangers of explosive enthusiasm. They will be entertained by a day military parade and by a night pyrotechnic display under expert supervision. Children's games have also been arranged for a day program. Newark and Indianapolis, too, will have grand pageants.

San Francisco has provided for three grand celebrations in separate playgrounds, where patriotic exercises will be accompanied by gymnastic exhibitions, choral singing, flag drills, tableaux, folk dances, salutes to the flag, a drill by school girls, a ball game, band concerts and a parade to one playground by the children themselves.

Safe But Noisy Program.
A safe but noisy program devised by the Denver Patriotic League includes many of these features adopted by the City of the Golden Gate and Minneapolis prepared for its celebration by having its orators who spoke to the children Memorial Day devote a part of their addresses to safe and sane precautions for the jolly Fourth. This sort of preventive campaign has also been waging through the free lecture course of New York City's Department of Education.

"To discharge explosion or have in possession" any "toy pistol using percussion cap, squib, rocket, firecracker, Roman candle or other combustible fireworks," is made unlawful by an ordinance just passed by the Council of Dayton.

Cards warning the public against lockjaw dangers lurking in Fourth of July wounds have been distributed by the Rochester authorities, while Worcester, Mass., has had posted in all of its mills and public places placards, in several languages, warning against the firing of pistols. Lynn, Mass., has forbidden the use of firecrackers over two inches long. Springfield, Mass., has taken them when more than three inches in length, and Syracuse has put the ban on them if measuring



Two Fingers Blown Off by Cannon Cracker.

over five inches.

Other cities which have arranged safer and saner programs are: St. Louis, Kansas City, Providence, Trenton, Utica and Binghamton, N. Y.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; De Kalb, Waukegan and Danville, Ill.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Harrisonburg, Pa.; Colorado Springs, Frankfort, Ky.; Oshkosh, Wis.; Jolipin, Mo.; Lebanon, C. and Provo, Utah.

Lebanon's City Council repealed a safe and sane ordinance previously passed, but its Mayor has vetoed the repeal, and Provo's city authorities were preparing to pass an ordinance

allowing fireworks dealers to sell out their stock in hand when the State Federation of Women's Clubs pounced down upon them and prevented this proviso.

Women in the Forefront.
Women are everywhere in the forefront of the crusade. Secretary Watrous gives credit for the greatest activity in the whole movement to Mrs. Isaac L. Rice, of New York, president of the Society for the Suppression of Unnecessary Noise, who, besides speaking and writing on the subject, indefatigably has interviewed the Governors of all of the States, the mayors, health officers, police and fire chiefs of most of the cities, in order to get their views as to what can be done in their communities. And she has enrolled a large proportion of the Governors upon a "national committee for the promotion of a safe and sane Fourth." A part of Mrs. Russell Sage's millions is being devoted to the same end. The department of child hygiene of her "Russell Sage foundation" has this year been industriously circulating throughout the country a model Fourth of July program substituting for fireworks in the hands of individual children such means of entertainment as patriotic tableaux, folk dances, flag drills and salutes, besides concerts of patriotic music, the public reading of the Declaration by elocutionists and orators, the ringing of bells, blowing of whistles, release of small balloons bearing flags, drills by school children, picnic games and municipal fireworks displays in charge of committees. And speaking of woman's part in this propaganda, it must not be forgotten that Julia Ward Howe seventeen years ago wrote in favor of safer Independence Day celebrations, including processions "less military in character and more pacific in suggestion."

Model ordinances passed by cities already enrolled for non-explosive Fourth have been circulated the American Medical Association, whose office in the National Civic Association headquarters is the great clearing house for such data. He has been recording facts that a hundred communications per week from municipal and civic officers battling for a sane Fourth, again the local politicians, who fear that the reform will make them unpopular with the masses, not to mention the manufacturers of Independence Day explosives.

An Army of Sheeted Corpses.
That 1,531 deaths have been due in the past seven years to the old method of celebrating our natal day is shown by the score which the American Medical Association commenced to keep in 1903. The injured in the same period have amounted to 33,073, which means a total of over 34,000 casualties, or over thirty times as many as resulted from the seven greatest battles of the Revolutionary War. Due directly to the last Fourth there were 216 deaths, a large majority of them (123) due to lockjaw, and of the other who died seven were killed outright by firearms, sixteen by explosions of powder, seven by giant firecrackers, and seven by miscellaneous means of celebration. Thirty-seven were literally burned to death by fireworks, many by small firecrackers and three by "harmless sparklers."

And over 5,000 were injured on that fatal Independence Day of a year ago, sixteen of these being totally blinded (five more than the previous Fourth), three dozens losing one eye, forty-one losing legs, arms or hands, and 176 losing fingers. The 150 lockjaw cases of last year's celebration made the largest record since 1904.

These figures stand out in scarlet, forcing parents to read and heed. They show that the firecracker has, in these seven years, claimed the most victims, 10,781, and that for mutilating wounds the cannon cracker holds first rank, being responsible, too, for the majority of losses of eyes and limbs. Powder and fireworks, generally, rank next, with 10,550 victims, and then comes the deadly blank cartridge with 6,874 victims and causing three-fourths or more of the lockjaw contracted.

Next rank firearms and cannon, with nearly 3,000 victims each.

Fourth of July lockjaw spread last year to five more States than saw it in 1908. It occurred in twenty-five States all told, and it killed within ten and a half days, in the average fatal case, while nearly all (84 per cent.) of its victims succumbed to it.

The blackest record for Fourth of

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July carnage last year was made by Pennsylvania, whose great cities are sadly lacking from the list of those enrolled for a non-explosive celebration this year. Its victims were 986, while those of the more populous State of New York numbered but 547. New Jersey came third, with 488 casualties, and Massachusetts fourth, with 430.

If the grim stare from the sixty-eight eye-sockets made empty by last year's celebration does not appeal to authorities unwilling to enroll under the "safe and sane" banner let them go to the nearest cemetery and count a thousand little mounds of sod and then half as many again and still more. Such a city of the dead will

measure the numbers who have given up their little ghosts amid the curling smoke of seven national birthdays—a mere week of them when put together. Or let these conservative officials be haunted once in their midnight dream by the pandemonium chorus of the 35,000 who were maimed or mutilated or crippled for life by those seven days of carnage. And let the truth gouge deep, that this vast army of victims, waiting in ambulances, moaning upon operating tables or lying silent, stiff and cold in morgues or darkened death chambers, were children—little, helpless, innocent, improperly guarded children. (Copyright, 1910, by John Elfreth Watkins.)



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